production of films are invited from film makers and the approved films are entirely financed by the Government. CFSI also organises a biennial International Film Festival for Children with the objective of promoting and encouraging the children's film movement by screening children's films from different countries. Films certified as children's films by the Central Board of Film Certification are frequently exempted from Entertainment Tax by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

New National Policy on Telecasting

3198. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any New National Policy on Telecasting in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has introduced the Communication Convergence Bill, 2001 in Parliament on 31-8-2001, with a view to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including broadcasting, telecommunications and multimedia).

Norms for nomination of Members of Censor Board

3199. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms which are being followed by Government for nomination of Members of Censor Board ;

_ .....

(b) whether Government propose to nominate politician-cum-actors to be the Members of Censor Board for their respective region for effective functioning of Censor Board;

(c) is so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 a person, who in the opinion of the Central Government, is qualified to judge the effect of a film on the public can be appointed as Member of the advisory pannels of the regional offices of CBFC. These may include politician cum actors among others.

TV and Radio Signals in the Border Areas

3200. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TV and radio signals of foreign countries in the border areas are more powerful than the signals of the Doordarshan and Akashwani; and

(b) if so, the step Government are taking to counter the powerful signals received from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The qulaity of Doordarshan and AIR signals in border areas is generally satisfactory. However foreign TV/Radio signals are receivable in some areas. Prasar Bharti has been assigning priority to expansion of TV/radio coverage in border areas in its expansion plans. At present, 50 AIR transmitters and 280 TV transmitters are under operation to provide satisfactory coverage in the border areas, which includes 92 TV transmitters set up under Special J&K Plan. In addition, 15 AIR transmitter projects and 34 TV transmitter projects are under implementation for expansion/improvement of TV/Radio coverage in the border areas.

For expansion and improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in North East Region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories, Government has approved in principal implimentation of a Special Package. The Projects approved under the package are already under implementation.

Participation of Private Producers in the Production of Serials

† 3201. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.